

Message Text

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SUBJECT:TURKISH TANKS, CYPRUS SITUATION - NOON PRESS

-- BRIEFING

1. TURKISH TANKS

NYT JANUARY 23 CARRIES PAGE ONE STORY BY JOHN FINNEY
DATELINED WASHINGTON JANUARY 22 WHICH REPORTS THAT THE
DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAS NOTIFIED CONGRESS THAT IT INTENDS
TO SELL TURKEY \$229 MILLION IN ARMS TO MODERNIZE HER TANK
FORCES. STORY SAYS THAT ON CAPITOL HILL, QUESTIONS WERE
IMMEDIATELY RAISED WHETHER THE ADMINISTRATION WAS SEEKING
TO THWART A CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE CUTTING OFF ARMS SALES
TO TURKEY ON FEBRUARY 5.

2. FOLLOWING ARE Q'S AND A'S RAISED JANUARY 23 NOON

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BRIEFING ON TURKISH TANK MATTER:

QUOTE: Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT'S NOTIFICATION THAT IT PLANS TO GIVE SUBSTANTIAL CREDIT ON MILITARY WEAPONS TO TURKEY?

A: WELL, I THINK THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ADDRESSED THIS, BUT I CAN ONLY MAYBE ADD JUST ONE THING, THAT AS THE NEW YORK TIMES STORY INDICATED TODAY, IT IS ACCURATE THAT THIS WAS A QUESTION OF PROVIDING, OF SELLING 800 ODD KITS TO UPGRADE TANKS, AND THAT A NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE CONGRESS AS A MATTER OF ROUTINE, AS REQUIRED BY THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT.

HOWEVER, AND I DO NOT KNOW IF THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT MADE THIS POINT OR NOT YET, THERE IS NO INTENTION OF ACTUALLY ISSUING THE LETTER OF OFFER UNTIL ITS FULFILLMENT WOULD BE PERMISSIBLE UNDER APPLICABLE LAW.

Q: WHAT DOES THIS MEAN, IN PLAIN ENGLISH?

A: WELL, I SUPPOSE, IN PLAIN ENGLISH, LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY, THAT NO PART OF THIS PROPOSAL, IN OTHER WORDS, ONE KIT OR 500 KITS OR 800 KITS, WOULD BE FURNISHED PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 5, AND NO PART OF THE PROPOSAL WOULD BE FURNISHED AFTER FEBRUARY 5 UNLESS THE SALE IS PERMISSIBLE UNDER THEN APPLICABLE STATUTES.

3. DEFENSE DEPARTMENT COMMENTS REFERRED TO ABOVE BEING SENT SEPTTEL.

4. CYPRUS SITUATION

FOLLOWING ARE Q'S AND A'S ADDRESSED TO CYPRUS SITUATION AT THE BRIEFING:

Q: IS THERE PROGRESS ON THE NEGOTIATIONS IN CYPRUS?

A: I HAVE NOT HAD A READING OF THE LAST CLERIDES-DENKTASH TALKS. WELL, THEY MEET AGAIN TODAY AND THEY ARE DISCUSSING SOME OF THE POLITICAL ISSUES INVOLVED.
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I CANNOT TELL YOU HOW MUCH PROGRESS IS BEING MADE HERE. I THINK THE IMPORTANT THING AT THIS STAGE ANYWAY IS THE FACT THAT THE TWO SIDES ARE BEGINNING TO DEAL WITH THESE ISSUES. THE TEMPO, AS I SAID THE OTHER DAY, OF THE TALKS HAS INCREASED, AND WE HOPE THAT THEY CAN MAKE SOME PROGRESS HERE.

Q: I ASKED THAT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WARNING OVER THE WEEKEND, AND ALSO THE FACT THAT THERE ARE NOW ABOUT

TWELVE DAYS LEFT BEFORE THE CUT-OFF DATE.

A: WELL, I DON'T WANT TO SPECULATE. I CAN'T SPECULATE
WHAT THE DEVELOPMENTS ARE GOING TO BE OVER THE NEXT TEN
OR TWELVE DAYS. UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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